

Gorge Dam Removal Stakeholders Meeting

Notes March 14, 2019 Meeting
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

SMP, Conservation Department, 2360 Sand Run Parkway, Akron, OH 44333

Attendees

Local Stakeholder: Heather Ullinger, Heather Bolestridge, Bill Zawiski, Mandy Rassanno, Tony Demasi, Mike Johnson, Stephanie Walton, Elaine Marsh, Megan Shaffer, Charlotte Gintert, Eyad Gheith, Connie Kraus, Colleen Kelley, Don Walters, Elaine Marsh, Becky McCleary, Doug Hartman

Arcadis: Mark Dennis, Dan Markowitz

USEPA Team: Mary Beth Giancarlo, Karla Auker, Mark Loomis, Caitlin Nigrelli

Jacobs Team: Julie Schucker

Notes from Dec. 13, 2018 meeting The notes were reviewed.

Additions: Megan Shaffer reported that Aurora Research Associates LLC was the historic architectural firm contracted by Summit Metro Parks to conduct the necessary requirement of the historical review.

Public Meeting April 9: Much of the meeting was devoted to organizing the meeting for April 9, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Natatorium, Cuyahoga Falls.

Program:

The History and Archaeology of the Gorge, Megan Shaeffer, PhD., Cultural Resource Coordinator
(40 minutes + questions)

The Gorge, Its Sediment Legacy and CleanUp – Mark Loomis, Julie Schucker, Karla Auker
(20 minutes)

History of the Legacy Act and its role in Gorge Dam Removal

Examples of completed projects

Rough Overview of Phase II and approximation of schedule

Model of Dam Removal Shows No Flood Impacts– Daniel Markowitz, Principal Scientist, Arcadis
(15 minutes)

Publicity:

Stephanie Walton reviewed the publicity plan for the meeting including SMP's website, Facebook and press release. She will send information the Public Outreach Committee so that they can send info to their networks.

Setup and Logistics:

The Natatorium will be open for setup at 5:30. FirstEnergy will provide food. SMP will bring projector and display for the dam. Cultural Resource staff will be on hand with a display to answer questions and take statements. Other partners were encouraged to bring materials and displays.

Sediment Storage Phase III: Bill Zawiski discussed how plans to fund the construction of the sediment storage might proceed. He will be contacting Ohio EPA to discuss potential WRRSP funds. He also indicated that this might be an opportunity for local contributions as well.

Bill said that we need a fiscal agent for the construction of the sediment disposal site before 2020. Doug Hartman suggested that we look at beneficial uses of sediment. He has information on this

Bill stated that we should begin looking at required permits and potential restoration sometime in the near future.

Bill reminded stakeholder to keep track of their time using the circulated form and turn it into him by the end of the month. Elaine agreed to remind people to do this on the 20th of each month.

Potential New Members: The group discussed adding new members. John Peck, Professor of Geoscience at the University of Akron was suggested. We also thought it would be great for the group to review his sediment data. He will be invited to present at a future meeting.

Connie Kraus suggested that we look at setting up some type of legislative advisory group to include all state and federal legislators and senators. Elaine Marsh, Connie Kraus and Stephanie Walton will look into this

Public Outreach Contract: Caitlin Nigrelli reported on the terms for the public outreach portion of the USEPA contract.

Public Outreach Subcommittee: Stephanie Walton reported that there would be a call for the committee on March 20. Elaine Marsh will send out an agenda.

Phase II: Heather Ullinger reported that Akron had submitted most of the data USEPA required and was gathering the remainder. She stated that a payment schedule needed to be worked out with USEPA for reimbursement of the local match. Mary Beth outlined the current status of the amendments to the Jacobs contract.

Phase IV: Heather Ullinger reported that the City of Akron and USEPA have been in communication and that the City is beginning the application process for dam deconstruction.

Cuyahoga 50 and Other Upcoming Dates and Events: Heather Bolestridge report on plans for the Cuyahoga River Homecoming on June 21. Tony Demasi reported on the Cuyahoga Falls Torch Fest also on June 21. Other upcoming stakeholder events and Cuyahoga 50 events were discussed. The group was referred to www.cuyahoga50.org

Future Stakeholder Meetings: Next meeting is June 13 at the Conservation Office of SMP.

Notes drafted by Elaine Marsh, Watershed Specialist, Summit Metro Parks . Please direct questions and comments to: [[HYPERLINK "mailto:emarsh@summitmetroparks.org"](mailto:emarsh@summitmetroparks.org)] or (330)328-3909.